

7. 2005 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is:
 - to seek authority for Councillors to attend the 2005 Local Government New Zealand Conference;
 - to seek the appointment of the Council's voting delegates to the conference.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This year's conference will be held in Christchurch from Sunday 24 to Wednesday 27 July 2005.
3. The Council usually authorises 5-6 Councillors to attend the conference. Last year, the Council's delegates/observers were the Mayor and Councillors Graham Condon, Carole Evans, Pat Harrow, Chrissie Williams and Mrs Yvonne Palmer. Registration fees of \$1,195 (including GST) will be payable for each delegate/observer attending this year's conference. However, no travel or accommodation costs will be incurred by this Council's delegates, in view of the fact that this year's conference is being held in Christchurch.
4. Although not all Councillors will be available to attend, it is considered that all Councillors should be given the opportunity to register for the conference, bearing in mind that this year's conference is being hosted by Christchurch City.
5. The Christchurch City Council is entitled to appoint three conference voting delegates, with any additional Councillors attending as observers.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. Registration fees of \$1,195 (including GST) will be incurred for each voting delegate/observer appointed by the Council. Should approval be granted for the Mayor and all Councillors to attend, the total cost will therefore amount to a maximum of \$15,535 including GST. This expenditure will be able to be accommodated within the provision for Mayoral/Councillor conference attendance included in the draft 2005/06 Annual Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- (a) That, in view of the fact that this year's conference will be hosted by the Christchurch City Council, the Mayor and all those Councillors who wish to register, be authorised to attend the 2005 Local Government New Zealand Conference.
- (b) That the Mayor and Councillors Carole Evans and Bob Shearing be appointed as the Council's voting delegates at the conference, plus one further alternate voting delegate, to be nominated at the meeting.

BACKGROUND ON 2005 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

7. In recent years, the Council has usually appointed between 5-6 delegates to attend the conference. As the Christchurch City Council was the host authority, all Councillors were authorised to attend the 2000 conference held in Christchurch, when the Council also agreed to authorise the attendance of two Community Board members, nominated by the Community Board Chairpersons. Because the 2001 conference dealt with the critical issue of local government reform the Council authorised the Mayor, six Councillors and a Community Board Chairperson to attend that conference.